

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00484 160820Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T AMMAN 0484

EXDIS

JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, YS, US, XF
SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY'S SOUTH YEMEN VISIT

SUMMARY: I MET FOR A SHORT TIME JANUARY 15 WITH
CONGRESSMAN PAUL FINDLEY WHO INDICATED NO OBJECTION
TO MY PASSING ON A REPORT OF HIS JANUARY 13-15 VISIT
TO SOUTH YEMEN. HE EXPECTS TO SEE SECRETARY IN
JERUSALEM TO PRESENT HIM WITH A PERSONAL REPORT AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE MET PRESIDENT SALIM RUBAY'I
ALI. LATTER STRESSED HIS CLOSE PERSONAL CONTACT AND
COOPERATION WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND ABSENCE OF
ANY DISPUTE WITH THE UNITED STATES, SAUDI ARABIA
OR NORTH YEMEN. ALI INDICATED HE IS PROVIDING
SOVIETS WITH "NAVAL FACILITIES" IN RECOGNITION OF
SOVIET HELP TEN YEARS AGO WHEN HE NEEDED IT BADLY.
ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS EXPECTING U.S. DELEGATION IN
ADEN THIS MONTH AS SECRETARY HAD INDICATED TO FOREIGN
MINISTER MOTI IN NEW YORK. CONGRESSMAN BELIEVES THAT
WE SHOULD BE ALL MEANS SEND DELEGATION AND IN ANY
EVENT "PLAY STRAIGHT" WITH SOUTH YEMEN REGARDING OUR
INTENTIONS. END SUMMARY

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1. CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY RETURNED TO AMMAN BY AIR
LATE EVENING JANUARY 15. HE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS TO
ME ABOUT HIS SOUTH YEMEN VISIT:

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT SALIM RUBAY'I ALI
LATTER SAID:

A) THAT HE HAD NO QUARREL WITH THE U.S. AND WAS STILL EXPECTING THE U.S. DELEGATION WHICH WE HAD INDICATED WOULD BE COMING TO ADEN IN JANUARY. HE DID NOT RAISE THE QUESTION OF U.S. AID AS HE AND OTHER SOUTH YEMENIS HAD DONE PREVIOUSLY WITH CONGRESSMAN;

B) SOUTH YEMEN AND SAUDI ARABIA ENJOYED GOOD RELATIONS. HE WAS IN TOUCH WITH CROWN PRINCE FADH WHO KNEW MORE ABOUT ADEN'S RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION THAN ANYONE ELSE IN SAUDI GOVERNMENT. THERE HAD BEEN A BORDER INCIDENT IN NOVEMBER 1976, BUT HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH FADH AND THE ISSUE HAD BEEN WORKED OUT. HE SAID NOTHING ABOUT SAUDI BUILD-UP OF MILITARY IN BORDER AREA AND MR. FINDLEY DID NOT MENTION IT;

C) SOUTH YEMEN HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH STATES IN HORN CONFLICT, ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. WHEN I EXPRESSED SOME SCEPTICISM ABOUT SOMALIA, CONGRESSMAN SAID THAT ALI HAD MADE POINT BOTH SIDES STILL MAINTAINED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND REPRESENTATION;

D) SOUTH YEMEN IS PROVIDING "NAVAL FACILITIES" (NOT A BASE, ALI SAID) TO THE SOVIETS IN RECOGNITION OF SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH YEMEN SOME TEN YEARS AGO WHEN IT HAD BEEN BADLY NEEDED. FINDLEY SAID HE DID NOT SEE THEM, BUT ASSUMED, AS HE HAD BEEN TOLD, THAT SOVIETS HAD MOVED DRY DOCK AND REPAIR VESSELS
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FROM BERBERA TO ADEN. HIS AIRCRAFT LANDED AT AIRPORT WHICH HOUSED SOVIET-BUILT AIRCRAFT WITH SOUTH YEMEN MARKINGS AND ONE OLD BIPLANE WITH SOVIET MARKINGS. HE HAD TAKEN PICTURES EVERYWHERE BUT AT AIRFIELD. ALI ARRANGED FOR HIM, HIS WIFE AND TWO U.S. PILOTS TO VISIT HADRAMAUT. THEY WERE FLOWN IN FIXED WING PLANE WITH PART SOVIET CREW AND THEN IN SOVIET-MADE HELICOPTER WITH NO SOVIETS ABOARD; AND

E) ALI ALSO CLAIMED RELATIONS WITH NORTH YEMEN WERE GOOD, BUT THAT WITH OMAN THINGS WERE MERELY "STABLE."

3. CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY WANTED SECRETARY TO KNOW OF HIS CONCERN THAT WE SEND PROMISED DELEGATION. HE REPEATED AGAIN THAT FAHD, AND YAMANI EVEN MORE STRONGLY, BOTH URGED THAT WE OPEN MISSION IN ADEN. HIS OWN CONCLUSION REMAINS THAT WE DO SO. WHATEVER WE DO, WE SHOULD PLAY STRAIGHT WITH THE SOUTH YEMENIS AND NOT MISLEAD THEM OR NOT KEEP COMMITMENTS (SEND DELEGATION) WHICH WE HAVE MADE. HE INDICATED THAT ALI WAS SENDING THROUGH HIM A MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER, PART OF WHICH RELATED TO HIS PLEASURE THAT

PRESIDENT CARTER HAD ANNOUNCED A POLICY OF SEEKING TO REOPEN RELATIONS WITH ALL STATES FROM WHICH WE WERE NOW CUT OFF DIPLOMATICALLY. CONGRESSMAN ASKED ABOUT SECRETARY'S TRAVEL PLANS REGARDING JERUSALEM AND I GAVE HIM WHAT INFORMATION WE HAD IN HAND (THAT TRAVEL STILL UNCERTAIN). HE WILL CROSS BRIDGE TODAY, JANUARY 16 AT 0800 LOCAL TO WEST BANK.

4. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO JIDDA, SANA, AND MUSCAT.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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